



Special Supplement



জাতীয় জীবনে দশই জানুয়ারী অবধীন একটি দিন। জাতির জনক বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান মুক্তিযুদ্ধের দীর্ঘ নয় মাস পাকিস্তানে কারাবাসের পর মুক্তি পেয়ে ১৯৭২ সালের এই দিনে স্বাধীন বাংলাদেশে প্রত্যাবর্তন করেন। যুক্ত বিবরণ, স্বজনহারা, প্রিয় দেশবাসীর কাছে তাঁর এ প্রত্যাবর্তন ছিল পরম আনন্দের এক ঐতিহাসিক দিন।

এই দিনের অবসরে আমাদের মুক্তি সংহামের পৌরবোজ্জ্বল সত্যিকার ইতিহাস সকলের কাছে সুস্পষ্ট হয়ে উঠে। জনগণের রাজনৈতিক ও অর্থনৈতিক স্বাধীনতা প্রতিষ্ঠায় দলমত নির্বিশেষে সকলের সংযোগে প্রচেষ্টায় দেশে একটি সুসংহত গণতান্ত্রিক ব্যবস্থা গড়ে তুলতে হবে। সহনশীলতা ও পারস্পরিক সৌহার্দ বজায় রেখে মাতৃভূমির আর্থ-সামাজিক অবস্থার উন্নয়নে সমর্থ হব বলে আশা করি।

বিচারপতি সাহাবুদ্দীন আহমদ

EDITORIAL

SPIRIT TRIUMPHANT

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is coming home today. Our hearts leap with joy. The day that is dawning holds a promise, for the Father of the Nation is returning to his people. What joy can compare with this? The tumultuous welcome that awaits him would be unprecedented—the world has not seen the like of it. Who would have thought on the dark night of March 25, 1971 that there would be such a triumphant vindication of right so soon? Truly has it been said that even hope is not necessary for an undertaking. Those who fight for freedom are undaunted by odds, do not count the costs. They refuse to bend their knees before insolent might, defy death itself. Resistance at first was a gesture a defiance, a protest regardless of the odds—in short a gesture to the stars. The demonic forces of occupation were confident that they would crush the spirit of the people; they vaunted that they would rule for a hundred years. They reckoned without the spirit of the people, the neo-Nazis did not realise that the spirit does not die and the fire of freedom once kindled cannot be snuffed out. They killed in thousands, ravaged and plundered Bangladesh, indulged in wanton destruction, perfected forms of torture, committed atrocities which even the Nazis had not thought of, but they only succeeded in steeling the will of the people to resist. Capitulation is not for freedom fighters, for they believe that it is better to die on their feet than to live on their knees. Ultimately it is the Occupation forces who capitulated. They were so demoralised by the freedom fighters that they began to see apparitions everywhere. Those who had killed innocent men, women and children had no stomach for fighting when it came to a direct confrontation.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has fittingly and characteristically paid a glowing tribute to the freedom fighters. But it is who gave our aspirations and hopes a shape. "The day I went to jail I didn't know whether I was to live or not, but I knew that Bangladesh would be liberated", he said in London on Saturday. It was his conviction that the freedom struggle would be continued till Bangladeshi was liberated. The spirit that was manifest in March under his great leadership has triumphed. He is a shining symbol of our hopes and aspirations. He taught us to fight for our rights and hold our heads high and though he was incarcerated his spirit continued to inspire us, his stirring words continued to ring in our ears. There is magic in his name, and the magic is the unbounded love of the people for him. No leader has been as beloved of his people as Bangabandhu. He takes his place among the greatest leaders of all time, but what pleases him most of all is the place he has in the hearts of this own people.

Morning News-10.1.72



10th January
HOME-COMING DAY OF
BANGABANDHU

Sunday January 10, 1999

Planned & Designed by : Triune (Pte) Ltd.

The Day made the Freedom complete

—Kamrun Nahar

January 10, 1972. Day dawned in Dacca. In fact, not the city alone, as if the whole country was awakened with the rise of a new sun. He is coming. The great leader of the Bengalees and a glaring personality Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is coming back home. The ocean of people passed the night sleepless. They thronged to the Race Course and Tejgaon Airport to have a better place to stand on and have a glimpse of the great leader from a better angle. What is awaiting it is! The national dailies penographed their eagerness as quoted hereunder.

The Daily Ittefaq in its first lead wrote The 'Great' is coming and all are thrilled in every direction. Today is the day we have waited for long. The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is coming to the sweet lap of his motherland in the midst overwhelming love and confidence embedded in sacrifice after a prolonged span of nine months. The jail of the Pakistani military killers was not strong enough to keep him inside.

Besides, **Dainik Bangla** under the headline 'Joyato Bangla and Joyato Mujib' said— Bangabandhu, the beloved friend of 75 million Bangali is coming to Dacca today from New Delhi boarding a special aircraft at about 3:00 in the evening. His arrival is putting an end to the awesome waiting of the crores of people.

The Daily Sangbad in its lead story 'Swagatam' read— Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is coming to the free capital city of Dacca this afternoon before 2:00.

The Daily Azad published in bold letters- Mujib is coming home this forenoon ending all owes and uncertainties.

The Morning News published— 'Bangabandhu Arrives Today'— The 75 million people of a free, sovereign and independent Bangladesh are counting minutes for the return of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who is expected to reach Dacca any time this afternoon.

Not only in the lead-items, every daily newspaper depicted emotion-choked stories and editorials. The Daily Ittefaq in its first page editorial went to say under the headline 'Esho Banglar Swapniki, Swagatam (come the dreamer of the Bengal, welcome) while the Dainik Bangla in its first editorial said under the caption 'Beerer Sonitey Tomai Baran Kari (we receive you in the pool of blood shed by our heroes). The Daily Sangbad had the caption 'Swagatam Bangabandhu' and that of the Morning News was 'Spirit of triumph... what joy can compare with this! The tumultuous welcome that awaits him would be unprecedented — the world has not seen the like of it.'

The Dainik Bangla published a poem of Hasan Hafizur Rahman in the post editorial column :

"Ekant Maanchitra Banglar" "That could be labelled as your dream of life! He is like the ultimate eversmiling milk-white lily/ blossomed on the stone of death formed through the cores of fateful nights/ and thorough the stream of 70 million mighty rivers..."

No vehicle was seen on Dacca-streets that day. People came out on the streets not in ones or twos, not even in hundreds and thousands, rather in lacs. They were there for the coming of the great leader who has freed 75 million people of Bengal. The most beloved leader is just to arrive. They were there with utmost

eagerness. The Dacca dailies, on that day, revealed—

The Daily Ittefaq : Under the headline 'Avinandan Aache, Pather Du Pashey Abyarthana'— The city dwellers were waiting and waiting without any direction. They, irrespective of age and gender, had prepared themselves to welcome the Father of the Nation.

The Dainik Bangla : Today is Public holiday. The holiday is for welcoming the Bangabandhu as declared by Prime Minister

Mujibur Rahman's arrival in Dacca.

The Daily Azad in separate story said—special trains have been put on line to carry people. Three trains are to carry people to Dacca. Government has announced to help people welcome their great leader.

The Sangbad : Today is Public holiday. The holiday is for welcoming the Bangabandhu as declared by Prime Minister

silent for a fraction of a second. Thereafter they started clapping again. They started shedding tears of joy, so did the Bangabandhu. He started embracing his close kins and reciprocating the saluting people. **The Daily Azad** presented the historical scenario— "Bangabandhu, when came down from the plane, was visibly very moved and overwhelmed. He could not believe apparently—yes, this is the land of my beloved motherland. In a very feeble sound he started saying—I am in Dacca. I have come to my people again."

It took 130 minutes to reach the Race Course from the Airport. **Dainik Bangla** reports— First, there was a pilot car. It was followed by the truck carrying the journalists. The third in the row was the truck, tastefully adorned, carrying the Bangabandhu, in dark black prince-suit, waving hands to the people. Tired he was, but still soothed.

People were on foot-paths, traffic island, trees, balconies, wall, lamp-posts, roof-tops and where not. Nobody viewed it hither to, but how disciplined it was! Unbelievable! They were lost in emotion but firm in order.

Bangabandhu entered into the Race Course amidst tumultuous welcome and slogans from the people thronged in lace where a free Mujib on his free motherland expressed with utmost firmness— we have freed the country and we will remain free **(Dainik Bangla)**.

The Daily Ittefaq reports: 'The Bajrakantha' (thunderous voice) of the Bangabandhu was emotion-choked. He said, Bangladesh is free and there is no one in this planet to snatch the freedom from us. My dream is transformed into reality now. The Bengalees this time shall be cheerful. They will be in joy and merry. There will be no dearth of bread. Otherwise, the freedom will be meaningless."

The Sangbad reports : Bangabandhu with his unique 'Bajrakantha' expressed a note of caution— 'Be alert! Conspiracy is still going on.'

Under 'Janata Sagarey Jageche Urmee', **Sangbad** gave a vivid description of the Race Course public meeting — the meeting was so mammoth and thick in attendance that Bangabandhu could meet the diplomats only.

The Azad reports on the public meeting on the following day under the caption 'Bangabandhu Bajrakantha' (The thunderous voice of the Bangabandhu) — if there were no food and cloths the freedom will be futile. Yet, there is conspiracy against the freedom of our country.

The Azad in its front page editorial says—the freedom of the country is now complete as the great leader has come back to Bangladesh after being freed from the imprisonment.

The Morning News reports : 'Triumphant Home Coming'.... It was a day of days. A triumphant home coming for Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a leader and a general, who had directed a resurgent freedom loving 75 million people of Bangladesh to their finest hours, the independence from an enemy country, 1000 miles away from the theatres of a bloody war.

The paper went on— 'Bangladesh now a reality. None can destroy it, says Mujib'. The paper also made a report on Bangabandhu's return to his 32 Dhanmondi residence:

Touching Reunion

Touching scenes were witnessed as Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman returned to his family members yesterday



10 January '72 at Tejgaon Airport

assembled to make a human-ocean. They have come from the nook and corner of the country. They are converging towards the capital taking multifarious vehicles—boat, motor launch, steamer, bus and train. Some are proceeding towards the city in procession beating drums and playing flutes.

The Daily Sangbad: The whole city is awaiting the Bangabandhu. By this time Dacca has become a city of celebration. With the arrival of the leader coming closer people of all walks of life—peasants, labourers, students and members of the women folk are getting more prepared.

The Azad: The capital is now overwhelmed with joy. Dacca is now ready to welcome the Father of the Nation with all preparation.

The Morning News: Under the headline 'PM's appeal to maintain discipline' : Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the people including the VIPs to maintain utmost discipline at the time of Bangabandhu Sheikh

Tajuddin Ahmed.

The Ittefaq in another story under the headline 'Aami Sarbaghe Gribhini' (First of all I am a housewife) : Begum Mujibur Rahman while talking to a group of journalists yesterday said, 'first of all I am a house wife. I am to shoulder the responsibility of running a big family'. The residence of the Bangabandhu is now on the brink of the dawn of a re-union after the painful days of dissociation. Begum Mujib and the members of the family are waiting afoot to receive the Bangabandhu.

It was noon by then. The sunbeam was on the silvery wings in a free Bengal. The ocean of people is basking with joy. Lacs of pair of eyes were looking at the door of the Royal British Airline, 'Comet', as if they had no other point to view when the plane touched the ground.

Amidst ceaseless clapping and chanting thunderous slogans 'Joi Bangla' and 'Joi Bangabandhu' the leader came down from the plane. Boundless emotion made the awaiting people suddenly

after nearly ten months separation during which period his wife, two daughters, three sons and other family members have lived a life full of agony, torn between hopes and despair.....

The Daily Azad, featuring the feelings of the nonagenarian father of the Bangabandhu, reports under the headline 'Dhanmondi Shei Baritey' (In that home of Dhanmondi) — 'I will not listen to none of you. Nobody can prevent me from going to Airport to see my son. I will take his mother also.'

The Daily Ittefaq reports on the re-union of the family the emotion studied scenario is not only a single family, but it is common to every family of the country. On 11 January issue the Daily reports:

The day we passed yesterday was yet a day of wiping out the sorrows of a poor mother, the mother Bengal. It was a day of the highest degree of our joy. It was not a day of celebration for a person or a class or a group; it was the joy of the whole country and the nation.

The celebration of the people was not an act of mere emotion. Words are inadequate to express the feeling of millions. Their hearts are lone.

pulsating with joy, with respect and best of wishes. With every pulsation their hearts are uttering— 'Mujib and Bangladesh, Bangladesh and Mujib' ('Supantha', **Dainik Bangla**).

The Ittefaq in a despatch says—the Bangabandhu once said in the Race Course that it is the people of this country that weakened him, not the jails, bullets and acts of torture. He said, recalling the sacrifice of people in the War of Liberation, the heinous and barbarous army has killed 30 lac people in Bangladesh. The figure exceeds the cumulative one of the both the world wars.

The huge gathering on that day prayed for the salvation and eternal peace for those who helplessly succumbed and embraced martyrdom in the hands of military junta and their local accomplices, the 'Rajaiks'.

At the end of the day, the tired Bangabandhu returned to the sweet home of Dhanmondi. But no feeling of exhaustion could confine him within the four walls of the residence. Well, this is the day, the country had witnessed on January 10, 1972.

[Translated by Ranajit Kumar Biswas]



জেখ হাসিনা